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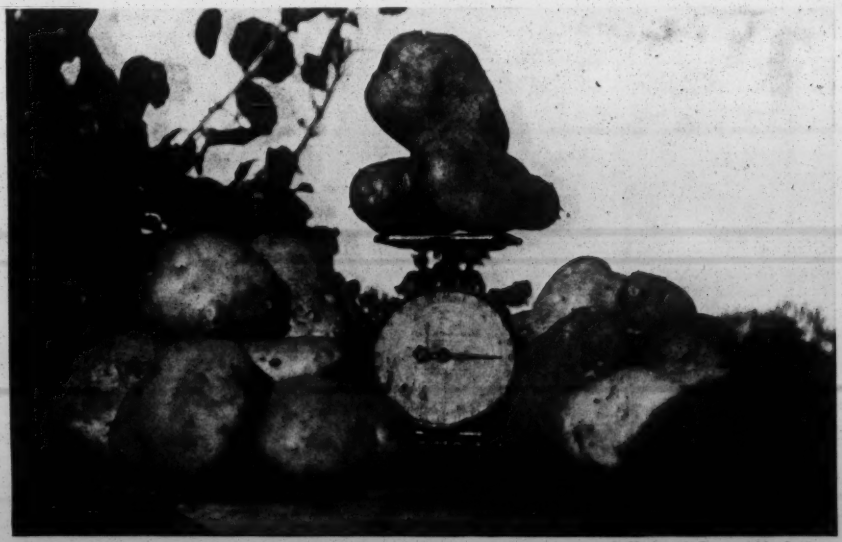

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SOME VEGETABLE NUGGETS FROM ALASKA: MIDDLETON ISLAND POTATOES

(See Bulletin No. 3)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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NOTE TO TEACHER—This is the first of a series of Bulletins on the outstanding geographic facts about the continents.

The Outstanding Geographic Facts of Europe

EUROPE is the smallest of the continents, except Australia, yet it is the most populous. It comprises only one-fourteenth of the land surface of the earth, yet upon this area, about equal to that of Canada, live 450,000,000 human beings, one-fourth of all the people in all the world.

Europe has shaped the history of the medieval and modern world. Europeans discovered, occupied and populated the Western Hemisphere, partitioned and subdued to themselves nearly the whole of Africa. Except for China and Japan they control all the important countries of Asia and all the islands of the seas.

"For twenty-five centuries from them, as from a focus, have radiated the art and science and thought of the world."

The Legacy of a Coast Line

The simple, obvious fact that Europe is the only continent whose greatest dimension extends east and west, and that it lies almost wholly in the Temperate Zone has had a profound effect.

Another important factor is the irregular, indented coast line. South America is twice as large as Europe, Africa is three times as large, yet Europe, landlocked for some 2,000 miles on its eastern frontier, has a longer coast line than those two continents combined.

A third fortune of geography befell Europe in that its principal mountain system, the Alps, lies inland rather than along its west coast as do the Rocky Mountains in our West. The absence of any barrier along its west coast permits the prevailing southwesterly winds to carry the warm ocean winds to the interior, which has the effect both of lessening temperature extremes and distributing the rainfall. Europe is the only continent without a desert area.

Two Choice Gifts of the Waters of Earth

The waters of the earth have bestowed two of their choicest gifts upon Europe.

It is the warm current of the mighty Gulf Stream, that mammoth ocean river, equal to 20,000,000 rivers like the Rhone, that makes the ocean breezes so beneficial to Europe.

Were it not for this beneficent current London would be no more habitable than Battle Harbor or Hopedale, tiny mission settlements in Labrador, in about the same latitude.

The effects of this genial ocean radiator are felt clear around the continent's northernmost point to the Murman coast. Indeed, this summer, excursion steamers to Scandinavia cruised around the North Cape with midnight sun sightseers while the MacMillan Arctic Expedition was battling its way through the ice of Melville Bay in a like latitude off west Greenland.

Caravels Instead of Covered Wagons

The second precious water gift Nature bestowed upon Europe is the world's

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THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTS OF EUROPE AS SHOWN BY A PHYSICAL MAP

Europe is the only continent which has no desert. The relief map helps to show the reason. Between the mountains of Scandinavia and the Alps is a great gap through which the moisture laden winds from off the Gulf Stream can sweep, giving up their water content gradually as they move east across the Russian plain. The map also shows how the great rivers of Europe move through low country where there are no barriers to commerce in the form of rapids or falls (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Rome and Cairo Delegates Travel Hot Sands to Jaghbub

ITALY and Egypt have sent representatives to make a treaty in the strangest and yet the most logical place in the world to make a treaty.

To reach Jaghbub the Italian representatives will have to travel by camel 150 miles into the Libyan desert from Solum on the Mediterranean coast. The Cairo delegates will probably come 400 miles over the sand by a caravan which takes its direction toward the setting sun. These two journeys, which might be expected from explorers but scarcely from diplomats, are made because Jaghbub is the principal consideration of the treaty. The representatives hope to settle the agreement deciding whether Jaghbub shall belong to Italy or Egypt.

When both Tripoli and Egypt were under Turkish rule it was unnecessary to define the frontier. But when Italy took Tripoli from Turkey in 1911, the question of where Tripoli left off and Egypt began came to life. Britain said the line started just west of Solum and Italy agreed to this. But the extension of the boundary as it went into the desert was not established so accurately.

Jaghbub, Shrine Town of the Senussi

Before Great Britain gave up her protectorate over Egypt she agreed that the Egyptian-Italian boundary be drawn to leave Jaghbub on the Italian side of the line. Italy, asserting that this arrangement is still binding, has asked for the formal transfer of the oasis from Egypt. Italy is anxious to get Jaghbub because it has great religious significance for the Senussi tribes whom she has found difficult to control. Egypt has wanted to keep it because it is the junction of four important caravan routes into Egypt.

Jaghbub is not a familiar geographic name, to put it mildly. But "Senussi," a member of the fanatical Mohammedan sect that time and again has turned northeastern Africa into a turbulent war field, is a term fairly well known to most readers of recent history in that part of the world. Jaghbub and Senussi have close ties. Until the Great War broke up the military aspects of Senussiism, Jaghbub was the heart and head of the movement, the residence of the Grand Senussi and a holy place of the sect to which hordes of its two million members flocked. Under the dome of the mosque at Jaghbub is the tomb of Sidi Mohammed Ibn Ali es Senussi, who founded the sect about 80 years ago.

Population About 100

The Senussi are sort of spiritual brothers of the Wahabis, the Arabian sect whose members captured Mecca not many months back. The Senussi play much the same role in Northern Africa, insisting that Mohammedans deny themselves all luxuries and that they live a simple life. Es Senussi did not overlook a "propaganda department." He established the famous "University" of Jaghbub which was long a power in the land, and which still operates with a greatly reduced student body.

Jaghbub has been visited by few Europeans. It was long closed to all except Mohammedans, somewhat as Mecca is. But there is little to induce a sightseer to cross miles of desolate desert. The oasis is very small, water is scarce, and the dates are of inferior quality. There are now only about 100 inhabitants. Besides the mosque and the white, bastionlike buildings of the "university," the structures

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greatest inland sea, the Mediterranean. It was the water highway of Europe's settlement, the region of all her early civilizations.

Caravels, not caravans or covered wagons, were the vehicles of western European settlers.

Westward, successively upon her three Mediterranean peninsulas, the course of Europe's great commercial empires took their way.

The sea influenced even the character of the people.

Dwellers on the peninsular shores of Greece and Asia Minor first ventured out on the sea, came to understand it better, and finally mastered it. "Inevitably the old land kingdoms, Egypt, Assyria, Persia, India, submerged the individuals. As inevitably in the men, who, singly or in small groups, wrested with and overcame the sea, a sense of personal independence arose."

The Center of Land Masses

The rich island world of the Mediterranean, in fact the rim of islands and peninsulas that encircles Europe, helps make for the diversity and independence of racial groups.

Consider also Europe's situation in reference to other continents. If you examine a globe of the world you will note that Europe is the center of the land masses of the earth. It is virtually a peninsula of Asia, the Mediterranean makes Africa easy of access, the Atlantic is a narrow ocean lane compared to the Pacific.

Even the earth revolves in a way favorable to Europe because the earlier closing hours of Europe's exchanges and the news of a day that is five hours earlier in London than in New York help make London the financial and news center of the world.

Europe's Unequalled Water Highways

The rivers of Europe offer exceptional advantages for commerce. Few of the rivers are impeded by cataracts, as in Africa, nor do their upper courses lie on bleak, barren table-lands as in Asia. They are so numerous and so grouped that it is easy to dig short connecting canals. No study of Europe's communications is complete without taking into account its network of natural and artificial waterways.

It is small wonder that the most aggressive and enterprising peoples of the world poured into Europe. Nor that, with its natural advantages and salubrious climate, they fight for a foothold there.

In this area, not much larger than the United States, there still are sixty distinct languages spoken.

Amid this welter of races, languages, and sovereigns it was a hazardous enterprise of the peacemakers who set out to readjust boundary lines.

How Europe Makes Her Boundaries

In America and in Australia boundaries are apt to follow river courses or to project in bee-lines across country. Often the boundaries were defined before many settlers arrived.

In Europe the opposite is true. Every border has been the scene of centuries of fighting. Boundaries tend to run through thinly populated strips of country, such as mountain ranges, elevated table-lands or low, marshy grounds difficult of cultivation and seldom are they marked by navigable rivers which tend to draw thick populations to their courses.

Whether you are dealing with a continent, a country, or a community it is worth while to apply geography in this manner. Reclus, famous French geographer, sums this up when he writes, "The extent of table-lands, the heights of mountain ranges, the direction and volume of rivers, the vicinity of the ocean, the indentation of the coast line, the temperature of the air, the abundance or rarity of rain, and the correlations between soil, air and water—all these are pregnant with effects, and explain much of the character and mode of life of primitive natives. They account for most of the contrasts existing between nations subject to different conditions."

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The Story of a Successful Vegetable, the Potato

JUST to show its importance the potato every now and then pops into front page headlines.

Its latest invasion came with the announcement of a potato embargo laid down by the big Eastern railroads leading into Boston, New York and Philadelphia. Estimates of a short crop by the Department of Agriculture shot the prices of potatoes up and the farmers decided this was the time to sell their crop. Potatoes flooded the market. They clogged the railroad yards. Finally the railroad companies had to stop shipments temporarily.

Ally of Industry

As a world crop the potato, the upstart vegetable from the New World, has shouldered its way ahead of both rice and wheat. More pounds of potatoes are now produced than of any other single domestic vegetable product. Potatoes have won first place in the world, too, in the matter of diffusion. They have become an important crop in the temperate and cool portions of every continent—from France to Scandinavia, in Siberia, the Americas, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand.

Potatoes are not alone a food vegetable. They already fill an important place in industry and probably will become more important in that field. Starch, flour, glucose, alcohol and cattle feeds are some of the important products made from potatoes. The starch finds an important function in the textile industries in sizing yarn, in sizing the woven fabrics, in color photography, and in thickening colors.

Germany has done more with the potato than any other country. The surplus portion of that country's billion and a half bushel crop goes to factories where the tubers are cooked, mashed into flakes and dried. The dry flakes, not unlike American corn breakfast foods in form, are sacked and keep perfectly in dry storage. The flakes may be prepared for human consumption as a vegetable, may be milled into a flour for combination with wheat in bread-making, or may be used in feeds for domestic animals.

If it becomes profitable to drive farm machinery with alcohol it is probable that in most agricultural countries potatoes will furnish the best source of the fuel.

Domesticated by the Incas of Peru

The potato is one of the many valuable gifts of America to the world. Most histories, busy listing wars and elections and perhaps inventions, fail to emphasize the introduction of the potato from America to Europe, or else mention it incidentally. The potato, however, is the New World product which probably has most deeply affected life in the Old World.

When Spanish and English explorers and settlers found the potato it was grown along the Pacific coast of South America. It had probably spread to those regions from Peru, for it is believed to have been developed into a domestic plant in the mountain valleys of that land some thousands of years ago by pre-Incan farmers. The world did not take to the potato at first, either in America or Europe. Not until well after the American Revolution did it become a crop of major

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of the community are poor. This is a college in the Mohammedan sense, not one according to our own understanding of the term. The principal course is the study of the Koran, the Moslem Bible.

Senussi Leader Escaped by Submarine

During the Great War the Senussi, under German and Turkish stimulus, waged war on the Anglo-Egyptian forces. The leader at that time, Sayed Ahmed, divided his time between Jaghbub and the extensive, prosperous oasis of Siwa about 60 miles to the southeast. After his defeat by British forces he escaped from Africa in a Turkish submarine, leaving as next claimant for leadership a cousin, Sidi Mohammed Idris, who has been friendly toward the British and Italians.

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THE OFFICIAL COSTUME OF THE SHEIK

A. M. Hassanein Bey, an Egyptian traveler and author, dressed in the garb of a Bedouin sheik. In Arabic the word sheik means "an old man" and it has come in time to mean the oldest man of the tribe (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Daghestan: Where the Present is Medieval

STUDY of a people whose civilization is more like that of our Pueblo Indians of the Southwest than anything else, was the object of a Russian expedition sent this past summer to Daghestan.

Its object was to record the language, art, antiquities and architecture in a land of men and customs that are hold-overs from the tenth century, and of cliff-side villages among mountains second only in size to the Himalayas.

Daghestan, it is safe to say, is one of the least known regions of Europe. One reason for this is that it is on one of Europe's remote borderlands. Despite political borders of the past and the present, the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus Mountains are generally accepted as marking the southeastern lines where Europe ends and Asia begins. Daghestan is wedged in between the two.

Live Life of Middle Ages

The rough rectangle of Daghestan, about 60 miles wide by 100 miles long, consists almost entirely of practically treeless mountains that extend from the crest of the Caucasus to the sea, and deep valleys and gorges. In the more open valleys near the coast the inhabitants were influenced by the Russians and became relatively civilized and prosperous. But in the deep valleys and on the steep terraces of the higher mountains the primitive life and custom of the Middle Ages still exist.

Daghestan has had waves of immigration since before Jason and his Argonauts went into this part of the world in search of the Golden Fleece. But it cannot be called a "melting pot." Instead it has been a sort of racial sample room where odds and ends of many peoples have been thrown together. Descendants of Aryans, who dropped out there as Aryan tribes moved westward, were joined by deserters from the Greek and Roman armies of Alexander and Pompey. The Celts who founded Galatia probably lost some stragglers there. Some of Tamerlane's Mongols were added. The Arabs who overran the country in the eighth century established in the mountains military colonies, whose members became another factor in the population and gave it the Mohammedan religion. Crusaders, wandering back from the Holy Land, stopped there to rest and never took up again their homeward journey. To these mountain fastnesses, too, have come the persecuted of all neighboring lands—Jews, Georgians, Persians, Armenians and Tatars.

Mountains Have Molded Their Character

There has been a fusing of these diverse elements, of course, but in many of the isolated villages or *aouls* certain dominant strains are easily recognized. Dress some Daghestanian highlanders in kilts and bonnets and you could hardly distinguish them from Scotsmen. Some fair-haired, blue-eyed villagers one might meet on a German highway. Others are obviously of Italian, Armenian, Jewish or Mongol origin. But though they keep the appearance of their remote ancestors and resemble their distant cousins of today, they have lost any kinship in character. Their mountain life has molded them as mountain environments ever do.

Like mountaineers throughout the world the people of Daghestan cherish their liberty. They were unconquered until the tremendous numbers and modern

importance in North America; and about the time of the French Revolution a Parisian philanthropist, Parmentier, found it hard work to induce the poor of the French metropolis to eat the tubers in *free* soup kitchens.

Why It Is Called "Irish Potato"

The popularity of this "apple of the earth" grew with a rush when its virtues once became known. Ireland was converted early, so much so that a knowledge of the tuber spread from that island to other European lands and it thereby acquired the misnomer, "Irish potato." The potato created an agricultural revolution in northern Europe and soon became the dominant crop. It even made possible an increase in population in a number of European countries. Now it is to that part of the world what rice is to the Orient. It is more truly the staff of life in large areas of the West than wheat itself. But for the potato Germany probably could not have remained in the Great War as long as she did.

Single Acre Has Produced 600 Bushels

One of the outstanding virtues of the potato which has made it the leading vegetable product in northern Europe and northern United States is that it grows to perfection in regions too cool and too moist for satisfactory wheat culture. Another advantage is the tremendous amount of food material per acre contributed by potatoes. A hundred bushels per acre is an average yield in the United States, but in Germany the average yield is nearly twice as great. The greatest yield in any country is in the Netherlands, where more than 250 bushels per acre are produced. Under exceptionally favorable conditions a single acre has been known to produce 600 bushels.

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DELIVERING POTATOES IN MIYAGIMA

The potato has circled the earth faster than the greatest of human conquerors made empires (see Bulletin No. 3).

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Nepal to Supply Rhinoceros for American Museum

THE ROAD into Nepal, where an American party now is hunting for a rare species of rhinoceros, purposely is kept in a bad state of repair and runs over unnecessarily difficult country. The Nepalese are a prolific people of very great energy and activity, eager to make the most of any opportunity which offers itself. The population is increasing so fast that outlets have to be found, and the trend of emigration now is to follow the foothills along Bhutan and into Assam.

They also are a fighting people, have an excellent army and organization, and are fond of show, both in military display and in their religious festivals. The latter are very numerous and in fact seem to be interminable. The women take a prominent part in most of them.

Woman's Dress May be 100 Yards Long

The Nepalese women wear yards upon yards—sometimes as many as a hundred—of fine muslin plaited to form a huge fan-shaped bunch in front, the back being quite tight. When a lady of rank drives in her barouche she completely fills the carriage with her voluminous skirt of brilliant hue. Above the skirt a vivid little tight-fitting jacket, usually of velvet, is worn; the hair is dressed in a peculiar knot in front, above the forehead, and fastened to one side by an enormous gold plaque with a jeweled center. A heavy gold necklace and gold bangles complete her jewelry.

Every imaginable shade is used—purple, pale blue, green, carmine, orange, white, yellow, turquoise, and deep red—and the effect is wonderful.

Castes Among the Gurkhas

Though slavery is abolished the castes remain. The inhabitants of Nepal are collectively known as "Paharias" or "Dwellers in the Hills." The principal castes among the Gurkhas, now the dominant race, follow in order of social precedence.

The following are known as high caste:

1. Brahmans, who eat rice cooked only by members of their own caste. They drink water from the hands of members of castes Nos. 2 to 19.

2. Surmgasi, who eat rice cooked by Brahmans, Thakuris, and Khas only. They drink water from the hands of all castes up to No. 19.

3. Thakuri, who eat rice cooked by Brahmans only. They drink water from hands of all members of all castes up to 19.

4. Khas or Chitsi, who eat rice cooked by Brahmans and Thakuris only and drink water from hands of all members of castes Nos. 2 to 19.

"Middle Class" Castes

The intermediate castes run from 5 to 19, inclusive, and the lower castes from 20 to 24, inclusive.

The castes from 20 to 24 do not have Brahmans as priests. Their priests are members of their own castes. They have no dealings of any kind with castes 1 to 20. They must leave the road on the approach of a member of castes Nos. 1

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equipment of the Russians, pushing their empire southward, overwhelmed them about the middle of the nineteenth century.

Use Ladders, as do Pueblo Indians, to Enter Houses

Just as the need of protection from enemies drove the Indians of southwestern United States to build dwellings on the cliff-sides, so a similar need developed such houses in Daghestan. The houses are built of rough stone stuck together with clay. The floors are of hard-beaten clay, but in many cases are covered with rugs. House rises above house in terraces, the roofs of the lower one serving as courts for those above. The comparison with pueblo villages does not depend on superficial appearances, but may extend even to the ladders and notched logs used to mount from level to level.

Deep among the higher Daghestan mountains the traveler finds his calendar turned back almost a millennium. The port-hole windows of the houses have neither glass nor sash. Meals are eaten on the floor from a common dish with sharpened splinters of pine. There is the old Saxon barbaric custom of trial by ordeal, and the blood feud still rages.

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CUTTING A ROAD THROUGH THE CAUCASUS IN WINTER

To cross the Caucasus in winter, even by the most practicable of the passes, is an undertaking of no small difficulty. The traveler has often, literally, to dig his way through the snow, as can be seen from the picture (see Bulletin No. 4).

to 19 and call out to give warning of their approach. They may not enter the courtyards of temples.

The Bantor, Danuar, and Drai tribes belong to the plains, and no one knows how to classify them in respect to social precedence.

And then Castes Are Subdivided

Recruiting for the British and Nepalese armies is carried on only from certain of these castes. In addition to these, there are among the Newars, or conquered people, 41 castes and subcastes.

Then all trades are subdivided into castes—such as masons, carpenters and potters.

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A YOUTHFUL PILGRIM WITH A HEAVY LOAD

Some of the castes in India are easily distinguishable by the marks on the forehead which the members use. The youthful pilgrim in the center of the group is of a different caste than the men about him as shown by the different markings on his forehead. Children sometimes make pilgrimages in fulfillment of vows made by parents (see Bulletin No. 5).